

Finally, a mass of branches, fragments, trees of small diameter and dead standing trees is still being lost in the plots during logging. Even if one reckons 5 cubic meters per hectare, as scientists assert, this means that the "Karellesprom" Association is underharvesting about 2 million cubic meters a year.

Today, however, it is by no means simple to harvest these volumes. At the logging enterprises there is an acute shortage of bulldozers, dump trucks, excavators and special wheeled technology for the collection of slash and the performance of selective fellings. The entire timber industry of Karelia is supported by the wretched and technically imperfect TDT-55 tractor from the Onega factory, which even 25 years ago was acknowledged to be unsuitable for work in the forest. It is cumbersome, unreliable, lacking in power and harmful to the environment.

At every tier of government they know about this; there is talk about technical backwardness at all levels, but still the situation does not change. Yet ten years ago Finnish firms had already built wheeled units to harvest and process timber from intermediate fellings, and had put them to use splendidly in the tracts of the Pitkyaranta integrated logging enterprise in Karelia. In the Soviet Union however, we neither devise such machinery ourselves nor buy it abroad in sufficient numbers. The specialists' estimates show, however, that each imported set of machines pays for itself in two years.

The Council of Ministers of the Karelian ASSR is doing the integrated logging enterprises a bad turn, and undermining the basis of their